



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway

Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.

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For Immediate Release

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COUNTY BOARD'S ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSES APPRENTICESHIP STUDY WORK GROUP

Chairman Holloway's resolution aims to increase diversity in apprenticeship programs

Milwaukee, WI – On a 5-0 vote, the Milwaukee County Board's Economic & Community Development Committee approved a resolution this week authored by Board Chairman Lee Holloway and co-sponsored by Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., to create a work group to improve apprenticeship programs and standards within Milwaukee County. If adopted, the Apprenticeship Study Work Group would be appointed by the County Board Chairman.

A recent State of Wisconsin study showed that 85% of construction trade companies failed to employ any African-Americans or Hispanic-Americans. American Indians, Asians and women were also barely represented in those trades.

"We hope to improve these statistics," Chairman Holloway said. "This Work Group can raise the bar in Milwaukee County by establishing standards and measures for apprenticeship programs and ensuring that disadvantaged and minority citizens have an opportunity to advance with apprenticeship opportunities, regardless of their level of education or socio-economic status."

The Apprentice Study Work Group would increase diversity among apprenticeship programs in Milwaukee County and consist of representatives from the following areas:

- Construction trades
- Manufacturing trades
- Service trades
- Labor Unions
- Milwaukee Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

- Milwaukee Area Technical College representative
- Milwaukee Public Schools
- A Milwaukee County Board Supervisor
- A City of Milwaukee Alderman
- A Representative of the Milwaukee County Community Business Development Partners (CBDP) Office

“It’s time that we address this major deficiency in our apprenticeship programs,” Supervisor Johnson added. “This Work Group will bring suggestions forward to benefit Milwaukee County residents who have had difficulty getting into apprenticeships and other training programs, such as those coordinated by the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, Big Step and the Milwaukee Urban League.”

The full County Board will consider the resolution on September 27 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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